

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY-PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY-PARISH OF LAFAYETTE, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 23, 2003.**

**ATTENDANCE**

COUNCIL: Jerry Trumps (Chair - District 6), Robert Castille (Vice Chair - District 2), Bobby Badeaux (District 1), Chris Williams (District 3), Louis C. Benjamin, Jr. (District 4), Lenwood Broussard (District 5), Marc Mouton (District 7), Rob Stevenson (District 8), Randy Menard (District 9)

ABSENT: None

COUNCIL STAFF: Norma Dugas (Clerk of the Council), Monica Fontenot (Administrative Assistant)

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF: Walter Comeaux (City-Parish President), Steve Dupuis (City-Parish Attorney), Benny Soulier (Director of Administrative Services), Becky Lalumia (Director of Finance & Management), John Raines (Director of Public Works), Tony Tramel (Director of Traffic & Transportation), Robert Benoit (Director of Planning, Zoning & Codes)

**COMMENCEMENT**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001)AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to order.

Chair Jerry Trumps called the Regular Council Meeting of December 23, 2003 to order.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(003)AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilmember Marc Mouton was called upon to deliver the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(013)AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: **EXECUTIVE/PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Terry Huval, Director of Utilities addressed the Council by providing information regarding a request made by the owners of Driftwood Sanitation Incorporated, a private sewer service on Driftwood Street. The company, which serves approximately 75 residents, requested that LUS take over the current sewer system. Through diligent research, it was discovered that there were a number of outstanding issues concerning the ownership of the system, which were found to be problematic:

- It appears that the system was attempted to be sold to Acadiana Treatment System, in which one payment was made. The Public Service Commission chose not to accept that because of problems with Acadiana Treatment Systems.
- The oxidation pond being used for the subdivision is not owned by DSI.

The owner of DSI is recently deceased; therefore, the family is requesting LUS to take over the system by December 31. The Landry family's intentions were to shut off all operations of the systems completely. Correspondence was distributed to the residents by LUS in attempt to ensure the customers that the services will be continued and the situation will be remedied. Councilman Benjamin and Stevenson expressed their concerns and wanted to ensure the customers do receive service.

At this time, Mr. Comeaux made a closing statement that he was pleased with what has been accomplished during his tenure as Lafayette City-Parish President. He thanked the public for their past support, the Council, department heads and all employees of Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government. He added by congratulating newly elected Lafayette City-Parish President Joey Durel and wished him luck as the new term approaches.

Chair Trumps announced that the inauguration for the elected officials is scheduled for January 5, 2004 at 12:00 pm in the Ted A. Ardoin City-Parish Council Auditorium and the public is invited to attend. He also welcomed Boy Scout Troop 164 from St. Edmond's Church who were in attendance to earn their citizenship badge. Councilman Mouton presented each scout with a lapel

pin of the Lafayette City-Parish Consolidated Government.

Councilman Menard presented Chair Trumps and Vice-Chair Castille with plaques for their service as Councilmembers since 1996. He continued by saying he enjoyed working with them and wished both of them the best of luck on any future endeavors. Councilmember Williams reiterated Menard's comments. Mouton presented LPUA Chair Stevenson with a plaque and thanked him for his services and also wished Trumps and Castille the best of luck.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(266)AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: R-082-2003 A resolution of the Lafayette City-Parish Council approving the budget of revenues and expenditures of the Acadiana Criminalistics Laboratory for FY 2004. A motion to approve by Williams, seconded by Castille, and the vote was as follows:

YEAS: Badeaux, Castille, Williams, Benjamin, Broussard, Trumps, Mouton, Stevenson, Menard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RECUSED: None

*Motion was approved.*

The following person was recognized:

**Jeffery Landry** questioned if the laboratory was located in Lafayette. A response was given as affirmative.

## **REPORTS AND/OR DISCUSSION ITEMS**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(307)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5a: Update on the Hanes/Ancelet/Ambroise project

Pat Logan explained that the agreement has been executed by Atmos Energy and is currently in the hands of LCG in order that the process can be finalized. There have been issues regarding insurance and hopefully that matter will be resolved soon. Once this issue is resolved, bids should be received by late March and construction can begin shortly thereafter. Once construction is complete, Public Works will then overlay the streets affected by this project.

The following person was recognized:

**Jeffery Landry** expressed his concerns with what type of overlay is being utilized in certain areas of Hanes/Ancelet and also with possible drainage problems.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(487)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5b: Discuss speeding on Evangeline Thruway between Pinhook and Willow

Tony Tramel explained Evangeline Thruway falls under the jurisdiction of the LaDOTD, who regulates the issue associated with speed. Studies have been conducted which indicate that the speed limits are established according to the conditions that exist. He suggested his staff study what the existing speed profiles are along Evangeline Thruway and then return to the Council with a determination of what appropriate action, if any, would be at that time. Williams requested suspension of 90 days.

The following person was recognized:

**Jeffery Landry** expressed his concerns regarding the issue of speeding.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(545)AGENDA ITEM NO.5c: Update on the ACTION Unit changes and efficiencies

Chief Boudreaux explained the ACTION Unit was moved from the Administrative Division to the Criminal Investigative Division. The purpose and mission remains the same since its conception, which is to conduct uniformed police patrol within known high crime and drug related areas of the city. The unit works closely with Metro Narcotics agents due to the nature of the involvement with drug related calls. By placing ACTION with Metro Narcotics allows for stability and internal management at the level of the division commander rather than the direct supervision by Chief

Boudreaux. Also, by placing the two units together, it has meant better results as it relates to drug crime. After reviewing statistics, crime had increased but arrests had decreased; therefore, a management decision was made to make these changes.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(001)

Upon questioning by Williams, Chief Boudreaux confirmed this change was a result of the approval given by the Council during the last budget hearing for reorganization in addition to making management changes in that unit.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(098)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5d: Discuss Gentilly Road surfacing/maintenance

Joe Maniscalco explained the northern portion of Gentilly Road was overlaid; however, the southern end of the road was not done due to a major gas pipeline and electrical pipeline that will prevent widening of the street. The road is on routine maintenance; however, the main problem is that the southern portion of Gentilly is narrow compared to the northern portion.

The following person was recognized:

**Tresea Hebert** expressed concerns on why South Gentilly Road is not being done. The residents have been requesting the road to be overlayed for some time. The school buses refuse to go down that portion of the road because it is too narrow. Another concern is the recent crimes that have been committed in the area.

**Michael Roger** reiterated Ms. Hebert's comments and added that the residents are frustrated.

**Jeffery Landry** concurred with the residents and questioned if Renaud was considered a state road and received an affirmative response. Since this is a state road, he requested to submit a request to the state regarding the backlog of traffic on Renaud Drive.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(256)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5e: Discuss drainage situation on Windrush Lane

Joe Maniscalco stated upon review of the request, it was discovered there are 5 houses within the subject section in which one main area holds water. His department researched to determine a chronology of the homes as to which were built first, which pipes were put in first, how they were placed, how they were put in and who had permits. It was determined that 2 of the 5 homes received permits for driveways. In order to correct the drainage situation, it will require the removal of all 5 driveways and re-laying all sets of pipes.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(289)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5f: Discuss Hoffpauir Road low spot

Maniscalco stated that additional surveying was done along 2000 feet of the road. The cost of correcting the low spot would be \$22,620 for materials needed to lift the elevation of the road by 1 foot. The cost did not include equipment and labor cost because it will be done in-house. Also, 10 feet of right-of-way needed to be acquired on each side of the road to allow construction of that section.

The following person was recognized:

**Carrol Gary** expressed his concerns with what is being proposed to be done and doesn't agree that what is being proposed will alleviate the problem. Broussard requested that Public Works work with Mr. Gary on identifying landowners in order that necessary rights-of-way could be possibly acquired.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(505)AGENDA ITEM NO. 5g: Status of ramps on South Fieldspan

After extended discussion, Maniscalco will have to conduct research on the request.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

(TAPE 1)(SIDE B)(630)AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Comments from the public on other matters.

The following persons were recognized:

**Mary Ann Ficaro** thanked the Council and Administration for entering into a new contract regarding para-transit services. She indicated that prior to the signing of the new contract, there were indications that compelled LCG's transit personnel to examine the type of services that were being provided to the elderly and disabled. After many complaints and concerns expressed by those who use the service, it was determined that a new contract would benefit those concerns.

(TAPE 1)(SIDE A)(001)

As an avid rider of the para-transit service, she is pleased with the signing of the new contract as well as quality of service that is being provided.

**Shelby Williams** expressed his concerns with reference to numerous issues. Of these issues included the following:

**Camellia Boulevard** – Concurrence of comments made by Benjamin regarding the amount of resources that are being used in that area.

**Golf Course** – Opined that the golf course was being placed as a priority over the concerns of the citizens.

**Citizen Review Board** – felt there is a need for a board.

**Wallace Senegal** expressed his concerns regarding infrastructure throughout the City of Lafayette.

**Jeffery Landry** questioned the process for awardance of contracts.

**Eric Singleton, Sr.** as a representative of the Greater Southwest Black Chamber of Commerce, requested that the necessary information regarding the awardance of contract be made available to the public as well as all individual companies are given the opportunity to make application for bids. Trumps responded there is a form that companies, who wish to be considered for professional services, can be completed once a year.

In closing and final comments, Castille thanked the citizens of his district for allowing him to serve as their Council representative for the past 7-½ years. Upon his departure, he leaves with the feeling of success and felt he represented his district to the best of his ability, as well as made friends over the years. He continued by thanking the Council for their support and the Administration for allowing him to assist in moving Lafayette forward. He also wished newly elected Dale Bourgeois the best of luck and years of success.

As Trumps stated in his closing and final comments, he has basically spent half of his life with government. He felt it has been a successful 23 years and has enjoyed working with the present and past Councilmembers. When he was first elected 8 years ago, his goal was to make a difference and while looking back, he feels he has accomplished that. He thanked the Council for their past support, the citizens of District 6 for the opportunity of providing service, the staff and wished everyone who was either moving on or remaining the best of luck.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Trumps declared the meeting adjourned.

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Norma A. Dugas  
Clerk of the Council